# MONTEREY NEWS

**August 2012**
**VOLUME XLII · Number 8**

Photos by Glynis Marsh

*Getting down to the business at hand at July 28th Firemen's Steak Roast*

## The Town

*by Maggie Leonard*

### Heads Up, Speeders—Slow Down

Select Board chair Scott Jenssen has observed a large number of speeders coming through Monterey. At the July 2nd Select Board meeting, Jenssen said that he doesn't want to micromanage the Police Department, but he would like to see more patrolling and stopping of speeding cars. At the July 16th meeting the board requested Officer Michael Johnson to increase patrols for cars speeding on Fairview Road. At the July 30th meeting the Select Board officially directed Chief Gareth Backhaus to have a stronger level of enforcement of the speed limit. Chief Backhaus agreed, noting, "There are so many more people walking and biking." Jenssen stated, "This is a safety issue. If we don't address this then it's just a matter of time until something bad happens."

### Nuisance Dog or Right To Farm?

The Select Board continued to deal with a neighborhood dispute on Blue Hill Road regarding a complaint from neighbors about a barking dog that is protecting livestock at Blue Hill Farm. At the July 9th meeting the Select Board opened a hearing for residents William and Paula Hall of 212 Blue Hill Road and William Baumann and Wendy Hall of 216 Blue Hill Road to review their complaints. Scott Jenssen had to recuse himself from the proceedings due to a conflict of interest, leaving board members Wayne Burkhart and Muriel Lazzarini to wrestle with the problem. An additional complication, not known at that time, was that the defendant, Sean Stanton, was absent due to a clerical mistake; his notice stated that the hearing date was July 16 instead of July 9. Stanton's

absence may have made his neighbors more upset, although he was not at fault.

The complainants described how the dog barks at night, often in the 3–4 am range, making it difficult to get a full night's sleep. William Hall stated that sometimes the dog barks for extended periods and sometimes just for a bit in the early hours around 3:30 am, and that the barking is very loud and disturbing. Baumann said that the dog barks nonstop; his family is getting only a few hours of sleep, and it is affecting his children and their studies. Wendy Hall said that the dog is friendly and beautiful and that they have nothing against farming or the dog per se. She said they are fine with the other noises from the farm, such as equipment and loose cows, but the barking dog at night is eroding the quality of her sleep, and therefore her life.

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus was present and confirmed that when he has been called to the premises at night he has heard the dog. Monterey's Town Council, Jeremia Pollard, was present and noted that it is not being refuted that the dog is barking at night and being heard by all the abutters. Pollard was skeptical that the Right to Farm Bylaw would "override the ability for people to live peacefully on their property." He stated that the intent of the Right to Farm Bylaw is to put people on notice that if you live near a farm you may have to deal with farm equipment, manure odors, etc. However, in this case the dog is the farm equipment. Bettina Schwartz, a member of the Agricultural Commission, was present and explained that the dog is a special breed, a Maremma, which is highly effective at guarding livestock.

On July 16 the hearing was reopened with Select Board chair Scott Jenssen again recusing himself from the proceedings. The hearing began with apologies from the Select Board to Mr. Stanton, who was in attendance with his attorney, Ira Kaplan, about the incorrect date on his hearing notice. Kaplan immediately requested the minutes and recording from the prior hearing, which had taken place in their absence, and stated that he was concerned for his client that the board had heard testimony without his client being able to refute it or make his case, and that this might prejudice the board. Muriel Lazzarini assured Kaplan she is very open-minded and was in no way prejudiced about the case. She also pointed out that in court cases there are occasionally delays in the proceedings when giving evidence and that this could be considered a similar situation.

Also in attendance at the July 16 hearing were Town Counsel Pollard, William Hall, Bauman, Lila Berle, a local sheep farmer, Laurily Epstein from the Agricultural Commission, and Bruce Firger, owner of property abutting Blue Hill Farm. Kaplan called as his first witness Lila Berle. Berle has a sheep farm in Great Barrington on Round Hill Road and uses Maremmas to guard her sheep. She explained that the first Maremmas were imported from Italy by Hampshire College in the 1970s for their excellent ability to guard livestock. The breed has been carefully bred for centuries in Italy to guard sheep, and although Maremmas are excellent for this purpose they are not considered ideal house pets. Berle stated that her dogs have saved countless depredations on her livestock and that prior to owning them she would go into a field and find dead sheep, especially lambs. She said she would not be able to stay in the sheep farming business without the dogs. The Maremmas not only defend the flock against land-based predators like foxes, raccoons, and coyotes, but they also protect against airborne predators such as hawks. Berle confessed that she had also had problems with her neighbors with regard to the dogs' barking, "I have a lot of neighbors, and through an intense educational process I have been able to show them what the dogs do and their role on the farm." Berle said this has gone a long way towards defraying any tension in the neighborhood about the dogs.


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For his second witness Kaplan called Bruce Firger, whose property abuts Blue Hill Farm to the northwest. Kaplan questioned Firger both as a neighboring property owner and as a real estate broker. An aerial photo was submitted as evidence showing the location of Firger's property and house. Under Kaplan's questioning, Firger said that his house is two-tenths of a mile from the fields of Blue Hill Farm and that about two years ago he began to hear the dog barking off and on for quite a while. Kaplan then asked if Firger was aware of the farming method Stanton uses to upgrade the pastures at Blue Hill Farm, and Firger replied, "Yes he moves the livestock around the fields. I used to hear the barking all the time and now I only hear the dog bark when the coyotes are out. I hear the dog barking, but it's not incessant"

Sean Stanton has a small grass-fed dairy herd and a flock of 625 laying hens that he raises seasonally on the Blue Hill pastures. In the winter he moves the chickens to his farm on Route 41 in Great Barrington. He practices a farming method called rotational grazing, which utilizes rotating groups of livestock that have compatible habits and improve pastures as they rotate through them. Stanton grazes his dairy cows—which he describes as "intense grazers that need to be moved to fresh pastures every twelve hours"—in a pasture where they, predictably, eat grass and poop. He then moves the cows to a fresh pasture and uses a tractor to bring

(*cont. on p. 4*)


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# Monterey Fest 2012

## Saturday, August 18

### *In and Around Monterey . . .*

**9:00–10:30 am: Fishing Derby for Kids**
Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, Hatchery (River) Road

**10:30–11:30 am: Kids' Sing-and-Dance-Along with Tom Seiling**
Monterey Library

**11:45 am–1:00 pm: Diane's Trail Walk, Guided Tour**
Gould Farm, Curtis Road

**1:00–2:00 pm: Lunch provided for Diane's Trail Walkers**
Harvest Barn, Gould Farm

**2:00–4:00 pm: Bidwell House Museum Tours**
Special complimentary tours at 2 and 3 pm

### *. . . And at Lake Garfield Town Beach*

**2:00–4:30 pm: Fun for All**
- Face Painting
- Motorboat Rides
- Massages by Melanie Arcand
- Relay Races (*all ages—no experience needed!*)

**4:30–5:30 pm: Roger the Jester**

**5:30–7:00 pm: Dinner**
- BYO Family Picnic (*Please help us by taking your trash with you at the end of the day!*)
- BBQ: hot dogs and hamburgers to supplement your picnic
- Marshmallow Roast

**5:30–9:00 pm: Music + Dancing for Everyone**
DJ, Gabriel Squailia with Dance Guest/Fitness and Zumba Instructor, Mimi Rosenblatt

**9:00–10:00 pm: Fireworks**
(Bring a flashlight!)

(*Town, cont. from p. 3*)
his four portable hen houses to the field vacated by the cows. The chickens break up the cow manure to get at the bits of grain and also eat larval parasites, which keep diseases down. Stanton explained, "The property has not been farmed for thirty-five years and the pastures are depleted and I am trying to build up the pastures." The chickens fertilize the fields with their manure. It's a system that puts all the components to their best use and results in improved pastures. Stanton does not use any pesticides or herbicides on the fields.

Kaplan then interviewed his client. Stanton stated, "In May of 2010 Paula Hall approached me on Blue Hill Road one day as I was moving veal and said that I would have to get rid of the dog. At that time I moved the chickens farther away, hoping that would help. I also heard from the other neighbors, longtime second-homers Bob and Roberta Sillman, who were concerned about the dog barking. They came over and met the dog, and Bob says he hears it every now and then when he goes out with his own dog, but it isn't a problem." Kaplan asked, "When was the next time you heard from the Halls? Did you hear from them in 2011 or 2012?" Stanton replied that the next time he heard about the dog "was a few weeks ago from the Monterey Police with a citation for a barking dog." Stanton called allegations that he was avoiding the Hall's "outrageous," stating, "I am a farmer, I sell things, I am chair of the Great Barrington Select Board, and I deal with people and problems all the time. Anyone who knows me knows that I would not avoid talking to someone."

Kaplan asked Stanton if he was aware that a complaint had also been filed with the Great Barrington Animal Control. Stanton replied that he was aware of it and that he had gone to the Great Barrington Police Station at 9 am the morning after a complaint was called in at 1:17 am. The responding officer was not present, but the logbook indicated that the officer heard the barking: "There were two outbursts of barking, five barks each time." The officer also noted, "Wildlife in the area appeared to be extremely active." Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard asked Stanton about the schedule of employees at Blue Hill Farm, and Stanton replied that his employees and interns are there in the morning and again in the evening. Stanton does not live on the premises.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart asked Mr. Baumann if he had anything to add. Baumann replied, "There are pages of laws about this that are being totally disregarded. We have nothing against farming, but we have businesses to run and we can't sleep with the dog barking. That's our only complaint with Sean."

Attorney Kaplan weighed in: "I think it's important that we frame this as a land conflict issue, and this will continue as population grows around here. The dog bylaw and nuisance barking doesn't really cover it. We have to look at the word 'excessive,' and it seems that the barking is not excessive—the dog is doing its job. I ask the board to consider the application of the statute. You cannot 'unreasonably regulate' – that's what Right to Farm is all about. Is the barking so excessive that Sean Stanton can't use a guard dog to protect his livestock? Right to Farm means you are on notice. Monterey is a Right to Farm town. If you are next to a farm there are attendant incidental noises, and Monterey has made a decision that farming has a right to exist. It's called 'moving to the nuisance'—you can't complain when you move next to a farm and are bothered by the noises. This is Mr. Stanton's livelihood and this is an accepted agricultural practice." Baumann replied, " This bylaw does not supersede Monterey bylaws."

At approximately 10:15 on Monday, July 23, Wayne Burkhart reopened the hearing, with Scott Jenssen again recusing himself and leaving the room. Also in attendance were Sean Stanton and William Baumann. Burkhart stated that the board received a summation from Mr. Kaplan, Stanton's attorney, and instructed the Inter-Departmental Secretary to provide a copy for Mr. Baumann.

Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini began the deliberations, saying, "It's sad that the parties cannot reconcile between each other. To have to solve something like this is disappointing. The Monterey town bylaw regarding nuisance dogs states that dogs must be under owner's control. Sean is not on the premises at night. The Right to Farm Bylaw states that farm activities may take place at night with incidental noise. The Massachusetts General Laws state that no bylaw shall "unreasonably limit agriculture." The fact that the farm is abandoned each night is disturbing. Both the Monterey and Great Barrington Police Departments have heard the barking. Also, the cumulative effect of hearing it week after week should be considered."

Stanton replied, "The dog is under control; he's fenced in." Burkhart added, "I consider in the enclosure to be 'under control' too." Lazzarini continued, "Can't someone go and lock up the chickens at night?" Stanton replied that with the added hours for his staff coupled with the lack of chickens on the ground pecking and fertilizing for possibly up to twelve hours, "It's not economically or ecologically feasible."

Baumann interjected, "There are people who live across the street 365 days a year who can't sleep, and no one seems to care." Burkhart replied, "Certainly Muriel is taking a very judicious view, and it can't be said that we don't care. It's difficult to arbitrate between parties like this. Both parties will need to make accommodations. As a town we have to decide, to what extent is this a suburban town? Or is it a rural town? I feel like we have allowed our rural industries to be removed from us. We want to have a varied community. I'm not inclined to say that Sean should get rid of his dog and radically change his practices. He is trying to improve the pastures and he has been keeping the chickens away from the road so he is already making accommodations. A level of distress needs to be proven and I don't see that proof."

Lazzarini noted that she and Burkhart were taking opposite views and stated, "This will probably be appealed. Especially if Wayne and I don't agree." She queried Burkhart, "I would have conditions. And you would have none? I think we are far apart." Burkhart and Lazzarini conferred and stated that the matter would be referred to Town Council for advice.

At the July 30th meeting Burkhart and Lazzarini again took up the matter (Jenssen recused himself and left the room). Farmer Sean Stanton was also at the meeting. The Select Board conferred with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard via phone to determine the correct legal method to deal with the deadlock. Pollard, on speakerphone, said the board needed to make a motion to act on the petition as per Section 157 and take a vote. A yes vote for the petition would mean that the dog has to go, and a no vote means the dog can stay. As previously, Lazzarini and Burkhart were still deadlocked. Town Counsel will write up the non-decision. It was noted that any party shall have the right to appeal.

Before he left the meeting, Stanton, who as chair of the Select Board in Great Barrington has experience with thorny issues, had a few words for the board. "I know this is not an easy thing for the board. I've talked to other neighbors in the area, and although they are not around all the time, they said that they don't really hear the dog anymore at night. It's too bad that the first time I hear about the problem, after not hearing for so long, is from the police chief. It is a mechanism but not very neighborly. I would think that they [the Halls] would contact me. However this has been an education for me too."

Ben Shapiro

*July 7th opening reception for "Verdant Monterey," the summer show in the Monterey Library Knox Gallery. The exhibit will be up until the end of August.*

## Monterey Flag and Flag Raising

After overseeing the project for almost one year, the Select Board has approved ordering 250 small Monterey flags featuring the town seal on a blue background. The project was initiated by a request from the State House in Boston, where a flag hangs for each town. There was a small competition for the design,

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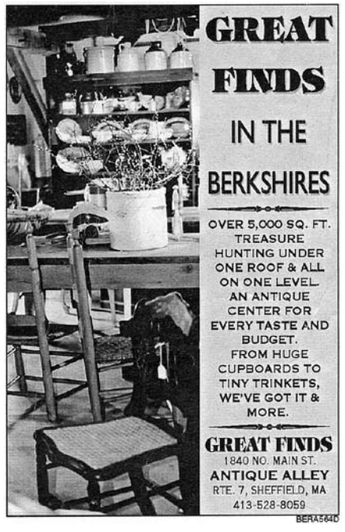
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and one submission featured the town seal as designed by Edith Wilson, a longtime Monterey artist now deceased. The person who submitted the design asked to remain anonymous and and has no intention of taking artistic credit for the seal, wishing only that the design be on the flag.

The town flags will be sold at MontereyFest on August 18 to benefit the McLaughlin Wilson House projects. The Select Board invites all citizens to a flag-hanging ceremony at 9 am on September 10 for the first official raising of the Monterey flag. State Senator Ben Downing and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli will be in attendance.

## Over/Under Budget

The Select Board met with Town Accountant Steve Pullen on July 2 to discuss overages in the budgets of various town boards and departments. Both the Planning Board and the Appeals Board are approximately $2500 over their respective FY 2012 budgets. The Planning Board underestimated the amount needed for printing costs for the Zoning Bylaw revision and overhaul. The Tax Collector is over by $2000 due to the Assessors' delay in setting the tax rate. Pullen also reported that the Fire Department is $9600 over budget. On the bright side, the Highway Department will be returning $45,000 to free cash from the salt and sand budget that was unused during the warm winter of 2012.

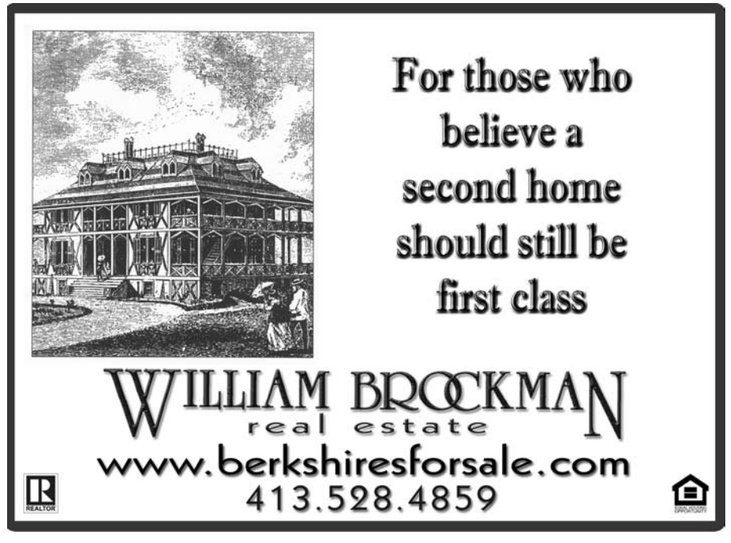
The Select Board met with Fire Chief Shawn Tryon on July 23 to discuss the Fire Department budget overage of $9600. Tryon stated that costs were up due to more firefighters responding to calls than previously, along with increased costs for fuel and electricity. Tryon also noted that there was a charge for a mutual aid call that turned into a eight-hour job. Monterey firefighters receive $20 per hour for training and $25 per hour for responding to calls.

Tryon informed the board that the Fire Department has purchased the new rescue tools approved at Town Meeting, and that the new medical rescue truck would be ready in October or November. He also said that the Fire Company gets a $5000 fee from the town each year for use of the building for meetings and that to deal with increased electricity costs the Fire Company may need to impose a use fee in addition to the yearly amount. Muriel Lazzarini asked, "Are you, as the Fire Company, willing to be more transparent with your finances? I know that would go a long way toward getting more townspeople behind the Fire Department." Tryon replied that he is aware of this and that the department is getting advice about it from local professionals. Wayne Burkhart asked, "What is the budget review process? Who are the constituents? Is the Fire Company a nonprofit, a 501C3? Usually there is a board." Tryon replied that there are three directors, although he did not name them, and admitted, "Since I am relatively new to the job I'm really just learning about it myself." Tryon added that the Fire Company is also working on getting a "functional web page."

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Select Board reviewed the updated 2012 Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan submitted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 makes mitigation planning a requirement to maintain eligibility for various federal funds. These plans must describe the hazards and the vulnerability to the hazards for each region. The plans also must document mitigation activities for the hazards within the region.

The section on Monterey is chock-full of interesting demographic information, an inventory of local water resources, and other items such as dams (or failed dams) and an inventory of what could go wrong and where. Download your own copy at http://www.berkshireplanning.org/regional/HazardMitigation.html. BRPC worked on the FEMA-approved document for two years and consulted with representatives from each town. At their July 23rd meeting the Select Board voted unanimously to accept the plan.







## Cool Town Hall

The new ductless HVAC system has been successfully installed in Town Hall and it's a refreshing change. There are two compressors, one on each side of the building. A compressor on the east side of the building runs three units, one each in the Assessor's office, the Town Clerk's office, and the office of the Police Department. A compressor on the west side of the building runs three units, one each in the Inter-Departmental Secretary's office, the Accountant's office and the Tax Collector's office. Cool might be an exaggeration, but at least it is temperate inside when it's hot outside. The meeting room in Town Hall has not been upgraded with AC since it is not used on a daily basis or for long hours.

## Town Clerk Benefits

The Select Board has continued negotiations with Town Clerk Deborah Mielke about the possibility of her receiving health insurance benefits. A few weeks ago Mielke informed the board that as a part-time employee who works at least twenty hours per week she is eligible for the benefit. Mielke was required to prove not just that she works at least twenty hours, but that the position requires twenty hours (or more) of work. When Mielke satisfied that requirement, Select Board chair Scott Jenssen made her an offer: "We can offer medical benefits, but you must log twenty office hours per week. Although we have been deliberating we are not yet clear on vacation or sick policy, but we can offer the health insurance."

Mielke explained that she has no problem logging twenty office hours per week, but added that it is not that simple. "This is an election year. Yes, I have office hours, but I also have to work these elections. There is a deadline for the School Committee election that will require hours. There is also the presidential election. These things take time and there are deadlines that must be met." Jenssen suggested scheduling on a monthly basis in order to organize her hours accordingly. Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini noted, "We also have to figure where we are going to get $18,000 that we did not budget for this at Town Meeting."

## Important Thank You

The Select Board and the Town of Monterey wish to thank Bob and Linda Hebert for graciously lending their Rolls Royce(!) and golf cart during the Memorial Day Parade. Also a big thanks to Lannie Lanoue for chauferring. Select Board chair Jenssen actually requested that this thank you be in the July *Monterey News*, but this reporter forgot! Apologies.

## Appointments

The Select Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mickey Jervas and Larry Klein to the Employee Compensation Committee.

At the recommendation of Fire Chief Shawn Tryon, the Select Board made the following one-year appointments to the Fire Department: Chief, Shawn Tryon; Asst. Chief, Maynard Forbes; Captain, Mark Makuc; Captain, EMT, Del Martin; Firefighters, Scott Amstead, Rick Andrus, Justin Bona, Felix Carroll, Roy Carwile, Carly Detterman, Jason Duryea, Dan Hamill, David Hamill, John Makuc, Robert Rodgers, Julio Rodriguez, Patrick Sheridan, Scot Sheridan, Warren Thomson, Chris Tryon, Leigh Tryon; Junior Firefighter, Cody Funk.

## Second Homeowners Meeting

The Select Board will hold their annual Second Homeowners meeting on Saturday August 4, at 10 am in the Town Hall meeting room.

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*With this report, Maggie Leonard is standing down as the Town Reporter. Thanks, Maggie. You're awesome. —Ed.*

music and more 12
Saturdays at 4:30 pm
August-October 2012
At the Meeting House, Rt. 57
New Marlborough, MA
Free! Aug 4 Berkshire Writers' Free For All
Winners of a short story contest read their tales of murder & mayhem
Aug 25 Stravinsky's Soldier's Tale
Berkshire Pulse dancers; Robert Olsen, narrator • Also, Debussy, Kreisler, Schoenfeld
Sept 1 Bach's Musical Offering Free pre-concert talk, 3:30 p.m.
Christopher Krueger, baroque flute; Daniel Stepner, baroque violin; Jane Starkman, baroque violin & viola; Laura Jeppesen, viola da gamba; John Gibbons, harpsichord
Sept 8 Daedalus String Quartet
Mendelssohn, Perle and Dvorák
Sept 15 The Boston Classical Trio
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## Monterey Community Center News

The late July rains were welcome in the Community Garden, where things were dry and watering of young plants was becoming a more regular chore. We welcome you to stop by to enjoy the view of the garden plots—so many things are growing well this year, from lettuce to flowers.

We are grateful for the work and participation of two committee members who have recently stepped down for different reasons. Shirley Olds has been part of the backbone of this effort for many years, not only hosting most of our meetings but also acting as secretary and, officially, Treasurer of the nonprofit that we established for the project, Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc (FWMH). Shirley is retiring from this work to focus more on her grandchildren. And Shaylan Burkhart, who has supplied youthful energy and ideas in recent years, is relocating with his family to Nova Scotia in August. We wish them the best!

The Capital Campaign for the Community Center is under way. We're very reassured by the support at Town Meeting when the town voted to give $10,000 toward the renovation of the Wilson McLaughlin House. Some folks have wondered how this money will be spent, and the answer is that the first priority on the house now is to remove all traces of the old lead paint (not any surface layers, but underneath layers both inside and outside the house) so that further construction work will not be constrained by the presence of that material. Using money left from our fundraising in 2006, we have had the other hazardous materials (asbestos, fuel storage tanks) removed from the house in the past two years.

The funds from the town are not sufficient for the de-leading job but will be added to money that we hope comes in response to our fundraising mailing, which you may have already received. There is information in the pamphlet contained in the mailing, and please visit our website for more detailed information, such as cost estimates, construction work list, timeline, and budget: www.ccmonterey.org. You are welcome to get in touch by email with suggestions, information, or volunteerism at center@ccmonterey.org, and you can always talk to any committee member: Mary Makuc, Laurie Shaw, Evelyn Vallianos, Cynthia Weber, Christine Goldfinger, Joe Baker.

Thank you for your continuing support and interest!

—Joe Baker

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## Monterey Movie Night Aug. 4 The Wizard of Oz

The Monterey Parks Commission will be showing *The Wizard of Oz* at the Fourth Annual Monterey Movie Night, 8 pm Saturday August 4, in Greene Park. It will be even more fun if you bring chairs or a blanket and some movie food.

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## To Residents of Monterey and Those Passing Through or Visiting

The number of people speeding through our town and not obeying traffic laws has increased alarmingly this year. The overall safety of our citizens is important to us and we'd like our citizens and passers-through to be mindful of the posted speed limit signs and other traffic signs as we have directed our Police Department to increase patrols and "crack down" on anyone not obeying them.

—Monterey Select Board: Scott Jenssen, Muriel Lazzarini, Wayne Burkhart

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## Monterey Library Notes

A huge thank you to the Friends of the Monterey Library for helping with the annual book sale. They had never been better organized and gotten set up so early as under the bright blue sky early morning on July 28. When the skies opened with rain most of the books were saved by canopies that had been borrowed (a huge thank you the Fish Hatchery for two big ones), and even when the rain poured down those people under the canopies stayed dry and continued browsing every box. While not as much of a financial success as some of the past sales have been, we did raise some much needed money for those extra projects that make our library special. Hopefully our volunteers have dried out—and how wonderful it was to see so many of you pitch in the break between the showers to make a book chain to save dry books! We'll never even know the names of everyone who came over and asked if they could join in.

Mark your calendars for next year—we're always looking for an extra person in the book chain, and when it's all over in an incredibly short amount of time you'll not believe how many books can be moved in such an efficient and easy manner. Please consider joining or renewing your membership to the Friends of the Monterey Library—there's a form on the library website which is accessed through the Town of Monterey website, www.montereyma.gov. The work the Friends have done for the last couple of years has been nothing short of transforming! Thank them for the work they did in renovating the Knox Gallery and running the shows, especially when you come see *Verdant!* during the month of August.

Thank you to all you patrons who have made the transition to CWMARS' new software. This has turned out to be a difficult and trying change, and the staff here continues to put in extra hours going to trainings and playing with the program to make sure it serves your needs. I would like to thank each and every staff member as I know they all have worked overtime trying to make sure everything works as well if not better than before. It does appear that because this software is open source we will see more changes that will be beneficial to the patrons and the system, but the flip side is that the staff will be continually learning new things as well, so please continue to have the wonderful patience you have had so far and be sure to talk to us about your concerns. CWMARS has established a procedure whereby we can request that features be added to Evergreen—and you are the reason we have the system so let us know what you think! We're all in this together!

If you haven't been to the library on a Saturday morning in July you've missed some great shows! The Bubble Man not only enclosed Nadia Makuc from head to toe in one big bubble—he was able to do it to Cara Carroll as well! Was Nadia's mother more worried than Cara's son Henry? We'll be having him back, and even if you've never blown a bubble in your life you'll be impressed—but if you have you'll be amazed at how much he can do. John Porcino entertained us as well, and John Heffernan had the Knox gallery alive with LEGO robots. On August 4 at 10:30 am Kevin Kopchynski, with much experience teaching for Massachusetts Audubon, will present "Stories of the Night Sky." On August 11, also at 10:30, Denise Andrus will read a picture book and have a craft suitable for younger readers and those who like to hear a good book. Finally on August 18 Tom Seiling will have you dancing and singing to some old favorites and some very funny new ones.

For adult programming, on August 4 at 7 pm Barbara Wolf-Dorlester will present *Moxie Goes to School*—a video that shows canine-assisted therapy in a special education setting—with questions and answers to follow. Moxie has worked with many children in the Monterey Library over the years. You've seen Moxie at work—now is your chance to learn what it's all about!

A huge thanks to the Monterey Cultural Council and the Friends of the Monterey Library for making programming possible in the library.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

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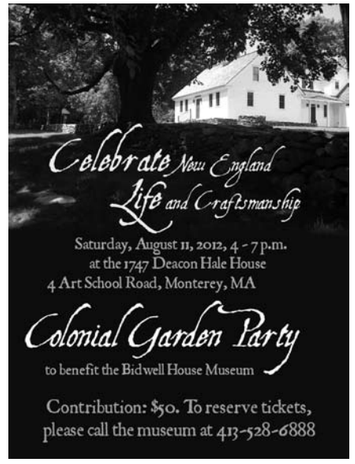
Celebrate New England Life and Craftsmanship
Saturday, August 11, 2012, 4 - 7 p.m.
at the 1747 Deacon Hale House
4 Art School Road, Monterey, MA
Colonial Garden Party
to benefit the Bidwell House Museum
Contribution: $50. To reserve tickets, please call the museum at 413-528-6888

## Good Place/Bad Plants?

The beavers of December and the weather of a warm winter have prevented the freeze and thaw at drawdown that would have helped control plant growth in our lake. The heavy rains in late spring suddenly washed road and lawn chemicals into the mix. And Lake Garfield again was host to a large crop of plants, the usual suspects that we've seen before: various strains of pondweed and water buttercup. The only good part is that when we went among the clumps of plant growth we saw lots of baby fish, but the bad part is the danger to boaters and swimmers in the small bowl and channel.

What to do?? We are now working with the Conservation Commission for Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) to get approval that would allow individual property owners at the lake's shores to hand pull (not cut) plants in the water around their docks/shores. Plants like cat tails would of course be excluded. We will also apply for individuals to place "benthic barriers" at their shores to prevent regrowth and new growth of any opportunistic plant at the individual shorelines. FLG will be doing the filing for approval of the Conservation Commission with the Order of Conditions and will pay the fee for the filing.

What else can individuals at lakeside, or ANY residents in the Lake Garfield watershed do? And remember, the watershed starts on the heights of Mount Hunger.

So here it is:

1. Plant vegetation along the shore and at your roadsides, not only as a buffer, but also to prevent putting nutrients in the lake from the runoff of lawn and private roads. 2. Are there catch basins in your private roads? If so, see to it that they are well buffered with plants to keep nutrients in the runoff out of the lake. At MontereyFest FLG will have a list of non- & low-phosphate alternatives for both cleaning and lawn use, and reference texts on buffers.

Sometimes good things come out of stressful happenings. Members Elliot and Fredrika Small have become active in the Ecology Group and been very helpful Friends of Lake Garfield, just as John and Sue Schmerler began to work on the loosestrife problem. Thank you all. The old adage holds true about Monterey. "Tis the people that make the place."

—P. Edelstein for FLG

## How To Grow More Weeds in Lake Garfield

If you live on or around Lake Garfield, here are some tips on how to grow more weeds, taller weeds, and thicker weeds.

**1. Use lots common fertilizer on your plants and lawn.** A lot of us are already doing a great job of providing weeds with an abundance of fertilizer. We dump it on our lawns on or near the lake. One of those Monterey rainstorms comes along and washes that fertilizer into the lake. Voila! Weeds enjoy a feeding frenzy. Fertilizer makes things grow on and in the lake. Time-released fertilizers, while environmentally friendlier, are less popular with weeds as they don't like hanging around waiting for their meals.

**2. Use lots of phosphates.** Phosphates are found in almost all laundry detergents and dishwashing powders. They go down the drain, into your septic, and before long seep into the lake. Weeds on phosphates bulk up like athletes on steroids. There are a few phosphate-free detergents, but they not only cost a few pennies more, they do nothing to enhance weed growth.

**3. Never ever clean out your septic tank.** Septics are designed to seep. That seepage can ultimately find its way into the lake and guess what? If you're a weed, septic seepage is better than *foie gras*.

Simply follow these tips and we can be sure of more weeds and healthier weeds in Lake Garfield.

If, however, you're not a fan of weeds taking over your lake, **don't use fertilizer anywhere near the lake, use phosphate-free laundry detergent and dishwashing powder, and clean out your septic tank every two to three years.** As we've done in the past, the Friends of lake Garfield is getting together as many homes as possible in our watershed area and arranging a bulk discount for cleaning your septic tank. If you're interested, call me. 413-528-9090.

—Hy Rosen, for FLG


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## Bidwell House History Talk on Working Lives in Colonial New England

On Saturday, August 18, history scholar and author Professor Allegra di Bonventura will tell the fascinating story of Joshua Hempstead (1678–1758) and Adam Jackson (c.1700–1764) of New London, CT, as part of the Bidwell Museum History Talk series. Joshua was a shipwright/farmer, and Adam was his slave for more than thirty years; they worked alongside each other for much of that time. Joshua left behind a 47+-year diary which documents their working lives. It even reveals Adam's everyday working life and is perhaps the best source in colonial America for understanding the work of an individual enslaved man.

Joshua and Adam offer a window into the working lives of ordinary New Englanders, both free and enslaved, in the colonial period. Professor di Bonaventura will tell the intertwined stories of the Hempstead and Jackson families in her book *For Adam's Sake: A Tale of Two Families in Early New England*, scheduled to be published in 2013. Early reviews promise "an engrossing narrative of family life and the slave experience in the colonial North. . . . Slavery is often left out of our collective memory of New England's history, but it was hugely impactful on the central unit of colonial life: the family."

Allegra di Bonaventura is an assistant dean at the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in New Haven, Connecticut. Her dissertation was awarded the George Washington Egleston Prize.

The Bidwell House Museum History Talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 a.m. $15 per person, $10 for members of the museum.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey. For more information, call 413-528-6888 or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

The museum's mission is as a New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house, and collections to reimagine, re-create, restore, and research colonial and early American life in Western Massachusetts.

The Bidwell House is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 am to 4 pm with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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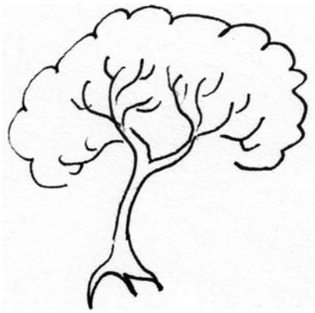
## Town of Monterey Tree Warden Vacancy

The Monterey Board of Selectmen is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy for the elected position of Tree Warden. Duties of the Tree Warden are described in MGL Chapter 87 Section 2. The term expires in May of 2013, at which time an election will be held to fill the seat.

Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to townmont@verizon.net or by regular mail to Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or contact the Inter-Departmental Secretary at 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the Select Board agenda.

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## "Afghanistan to France" Opens in Knox Gallery Aug. 31

Molly & Aurélien de St André

The Knox Gallery announces an exciting new photography exhibit, *Afghanistan to France: 6000 Miles of Portraits*, opening with a reception on Friday, August 31, at 6 pm. The exhibit will run through September. It is the ultimate product of Molly and Aurélien de St Andre's time, work, and travels in Afghanistan during two separate trips.

Molly and Aurélien de St André are artists who own Moho Deisgns, a local screen printing and design company. Molly, a Berkshire native and Simon's Rock graduate, has spent five years teaching and making art in Central Asia. Aurélien, a painter and graphic designer from La Rochelle, France who has worked in exotic places such as Kabul, Afghanistan, Istanbul, Turkey, and Reunion Island off of Madagascar, has just survived his second Berkshire winter.

Here, in their own words is their story.

*Afghanistan To France: 6,000 Miles of Portraits, April–June 2011*. We met in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2006, both working for Turquoise Mountain Foundation (TMF), a nongovernmental organization promoting and supporting Afghan traditional art and architecture. At that time TMF was a small, passionate group of expats and Afghans seeking to foster the tiny community of traditional artists and craftspeople who had survived thirty years of war and to ultimately create the production power and market for a sustainable art and craft industry. On the side, there were other things to be passionate about. Kabul was a city that was set back in time like no other city either of us had seen before, and the people had a resourcefulness that was truly impressive. Ancient wooden donkey-pulled carts bumped softly over the dirt streets on two SUV-sized modern tires, and men took passport and visa photos with a black-box all-in-one lab and camera obscura on the street corner for a few dollars—ID pictures that develop while you wait: the oldest camera technology with the newest of customer-service principles. And vintage cars long extinct in other parts of the world were serving new functions in Kabul—large-scale planters, unique property-defining fences, and tiny pop-up shops.

We bought an Afghan camera for a little more than one hundred American dollars and a 1966 Volkswagen minibus made especially for the Afghan market for just a little bit more. No one understood what we would do with such a useless vehicle. And after a small amount of tuning, it drove almost thirty-five miles an hour reliably and made a totally impractical way to travel.

When we left Afghanistan in 2008, the bus stayed behind, but the dream to ride it overland and home to France never died. After two failed attempts to get the bus out of the country in the following two years, we finally found a plausible route. In 2011 we embarked on that very dream trip with a mission to take pictures of the faces we met along the way.

Traveling with two relics, a VW minibus that had made its way across Europe and into Central Asia in the sixties before either of us were born and an Afghan box camera with a legacy much older and more complex than anyone knows, we drove from Afghanistan to France in the spring of 2011. Both machines were cumbersome and awkward in their very design and nature. Neither handled like a dream. The bus with its wide-set eyes and huge grin wobbled on four wiggling tires. The camera and its wooden tripod weighed over fortry pounds and required more than ten minutes of finagling before capturing a long, static moment onto a single sheet of photographic paper.

It is 6,000 miles of road from Afghanistan to the west coast of France, and we passed through eleven countries, using our upgraded pinhole black box camera with its Russian lens to take150 portraits of faces along the way. Each pictures tells a small piece of our travel story.


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## Monterey Gets a Radio Station

Maybe you've seen the posters around town: Monterey has a radio station this summer. This is our second year of broadcasting, and we've been recording episodes for this summer season since June 26. We'll be on air for just a few more weeks until I leave to begin college on August 16. The name of our station is Monterey Underground Radio, and all of the operations and programming are youth-run. Our DJs come from all around southern Berkshire County. We produce about 6.5 hours of radio per week, and there is still room in our schedule for fresh programs. If you are between the ages of 10 and 21, you can host your own one-time radio special or regular radio show! Just email me at jonahhcarlson@gmail.com for details.

Sadly, we are not on the AM or FM dials. However, it is simple to tune in. If you are using a computer, just go to montereyradio.org. There, you can listen live, play every episode we have ever recorded, view a schedule, and get updates about what we're doing. If you are on a mobile device, I recommend downloading the SoundCloud app, which allows you to listen to our most recent episodes.

This is likely our last season, but we may return next summer if there is enough interest. Happy listening!

—Jonah Carlson


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Barbara Palmer

## Bidwell House Colonial Garden Party Fundraiser

On Saturday, August 11, the Bidwell House Museum is holding its annual garden party gala. This year, all friends and supporters of the museum are invited to celebrate New England craftsmanship at a colonial-theme party at the 1747 Deacon Hale House in Monterey (above). Guests will get to tour the exquisitely restored and expanded historic home.

The party will take place from 4 to 7 pm and will feature Berkshire musicians Dublin Porter playing Irish folk music. Barrington Brewery is supplying special "Bidwell Beer," a pale summer ale. Delicious hors d'oeuvres, ciders, wines, and colonial refreshments will be served. There will be a live and silent auction featuring artworks, antiques, special dinners, and more.

The museum's summer garden party is a fun annual event—and it is also the most important fundraiser for the museum. According to Barbara Palmer, Executive Director, "The preservation of the 1750s historic house as well as the 192 acres of open space depends on donations. The museum has a new education program for area school children, and offers workshops, talks, and community events, all thanks to the generous support of the community and of wonderful volunteers."

The event is open to all to enjoy a beautiful afternoon in support of the museum. Tickets are $50 per person. For reservations and more information, please contact the museum at 528-6888 or bidwellhouse@gmail.com. The museum is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, and all contributions are deductible to the full extent permissible by law.

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Pat Arnow

## July Wildlife Report

This has been a month full of life, from honeybees to moose, bears, and otters. There have been wild cats and dogs, too, including a bobcat on Beartown Mountain Road the first week in July in the yard at Ed and Arrie Salsitz's place. On two different days Gige O'Connell has seen a red fox, which is light and blonde, crossing Curtis Road. Both times, Gige stopped and looked. The first day, July 24, the fox also stopped and looked at Gige. Two days later, though Gige stopped, the fox kept on going.

In late June, David Abromowitz and Joan Ruttenberg saw a large coyote along Main Road near the Great Barrington line.

We have a photo (above) of three fine honeybees in a pink poppy on July 9, sent in by Maureen Banner and Pat Arnow. Poppy honey . . .

There have been three bald eagle sightings this month. Mari and Stephen Enoch were canoeing on lake Garfield near Bullhead Rock and saw an eagle perched in a tree along Parker Cove, the Thorn family's place. The great bird then flew right over the Enochs. Later in the month, Mal Goodman was sailing on Lake Garfield and saw an eagle soaring. Up on Benedict Pond, the site of the new dam construction, workers told Sally Pullen they have been seeing bald eagles, too.

On Cronk Road, Alex Tinari and John Marion have heard barred owls calling often, and wild turkeys peck at the cellar windows where they can see their reflections. There was a bear visiting this place recently, about 5 pm. It then "roamed to the house." A bold chipmunk lives nearby and waits in order to "scoot in the door" to enjoy cat food, the dried kind.

Diana Downing writes that she and Dennis have seen a long-tailed weasel on the patio, on top of the stone fireplace, also a milk snake "enormous handsome…more brown than orange in its markings." They have also seen a Blackburnian warbler looking at their hummingbird feeder. Late in the month, Frank and Mary Ashen sent a photo of a strong gray squirrel sipping from their hummingbird feeder in a boldly angled and gravity-defying pose.

Will Marsh writes from River Road that a doe and fawn were browsing in the yard when "suddenly a gray blur flashed from the side of our house toward the doe. The doe spooked and ran a few steps before seeing that the blur was our cat Ben-Ben. Doe stopped, cat stopped, and they regarded each other at a distance of 10 feet. Then doe continued browsing and cat acted as if he had something else in mind the whole time." Will wrote later that Ben-Ben "does seem to overestimate his abilities. He came back one night soaking wet all over (including head) and covered in black mud—looked like he had been in a bog, possibly fleeing from something." Will also reports that the vultures "are still up there, circling, circling . . ."

Another doe in the neighborhood, or maybe the same one, appeared to Steve Snyder as he was bicycling on Wellman Road She was about 90 feet away and stopped still, as did Steve. She licked the road, then deliberately walked toward Steve, stepping very high, closing the distance until she was about 20 feet away. She watched, sniffed the air, and seemed to need more information until at last running off.

On this same day, same road, Steve saw a small bear that was perhaps a yearling, cross the road and climb the bank on the other side. It was followed by two cubs the size of cats. Steve thought the first bear might have been the mother. She never noticed him, though, and just sniffed and moved around, maybe looking for food for herself and the cubs.

Steve has seen sapsuckers working over small willows, about one inch in diameter, making a geometric pattern of holes like a grid and enjoying the sap. Steve reports his friend Elizabeth Blackwell has seen an otter with four kits playing near Umpachene Falls near the confluence there. This was about July11. Two weeks later Steve had his own otter experience while walking along Rawson Brook. He saw ripples and expected to see a beaver. Instead there were several otters, hard to count, working their way up the stream. There were at least three adults and they made a commotion as they swam and ate, spluttering and chomping. Then one of them saw Steve and gave a "wispy bark." At this, all poked their heads up, investigating Steve for a minute. Then they all went under and vanished.

Don and Ellen Coburn have seen a male moose lope across Beartown Mountain Road, and Cora Baker and I saw two young ones cross Cold Spring Road about 9:30 pm moving from one swampy place to another.

John Heffernan tells us there was a bear next door to his place, and nearby on Hupi Road the Carlson-Huberman blueberry patch has attracted bears on a daily basis. A "block" away, our dog Russell has sent a young bear up a tree twice recently.

We have classical music lovers on Cronk Road, both human and avian. Bella August and Belvin Williams were on their screen porch listening to the Tanglewood broadcast of Mozart concertos when a local vocalist joined in from the branch of an old maple right beside the porch. "It was kind of an off-key screech, like a child's play horn. It was repeated every ten seconds . . . and was especially active in the Concerto No. 3 and Concerto No. 5!" They looked it up in their book and found it to be a screech owl. There seemed to be a second one present, some flapping, possibly youngsters.

Thanks, folks! Send me your wildlife sightings.

—Bonner McAllester, 528-9385
or bmca@berkshire.net.


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## A Bloomsbury Fiction

*I imagine austere Virginia, writing*
*At her burnished table, composing*
*Fiction in her own room.*

*I watch her pregnant ink-splattered fingers,*
*Thrumming each time she pauses*
*To glance at the retreating March light.*

*She peers through stained glass windows,*
*Spectrum-splitting, river greens and blues:*
*Celadon, teal, cobalt, ultramarine.*

*The colors deepen as the light recedes, but*
*None are as dark as the black stones*
*Waiting in the basket outside her door.*

—Betty Levinson

## Embracelet

*I wear a silver bracelet on my arm.*
*It is a cuff of love given me in Corfu*
*by a man who had known what slavery was —*
*thus it is open upon my wrist*
*as is his love upon me:*
*two serpent heads*
*a-face, embrace;*
*one must be a father, one a mother*
*witnessing love while closing on each other.*

—A. O. Howell

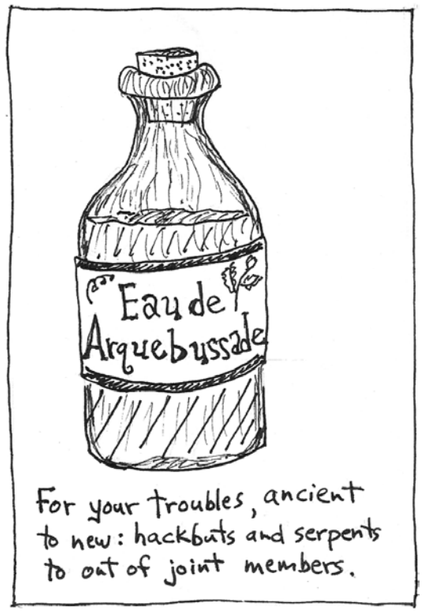
## Agrimony, for Indolent Ulcers

We have a Tall Hairy Agrimony in our kitchen. This may sound like an unshaven visitor with attitude, but in fact it is a tall graceful plant full of history and promise. Thanks to this newcomer at our table, we have also met two men of science and medicine, a Greek and an Englishman. They have enriched our lives, expanded our education, and stocked the family pharmacy.

The Englishman is Nicholas Culpeper, who wrote *The Complete Herbal* in 1652. A radical doctor, he felt the physicians of his day charged too much money and prescribed toxic "cures." In his book he presents medicinal plants that are readily available to all of us and for no cost. Here is how he describes agrimony:

"This has divers long leaves (some greater, some smaller) set upon a stalk, all of them dented about the edges, green above, and grayish underneath, and a little hairy withal. Among which arises up usually but one strong, round, hairy brown stalk, two or three feet high, with smaller leaves set here and there upon it. At the top thereof grow many small yellow flowers, one above another, in long spikes; after which come rough heads of seed, hanging downwards, which will cleave to and stick upon garments or any thing that shall rub against them. The knot is black, long, and somewhat woody, abiding many years, and shooting afresh every Spring; which root, though small, hath a reasonable good smell."

Culpeper writes that this plant "heals all inward wounds, bruises, hurts, and other distempers. The decoction of the herb made with wine, and drank, is good against the biting and stinging of serpents." As if this were not enough reason to welcome agrimony, it "rids away the cough," and "draws forth thorns and splinters of wood, nails, or any other such things gotten in the flesh. It helps to strengthen members that be out of joint; and being bruised and applied and the juice dropped in it, helps foul and imposthumed ears."




We do have ear troubles in our modern times, though in our abrupt way we use the short word, "pus." We are also unlikely to speak of indolent ulcers, being too indolent ourselves to use polysyllabic words. Still, a bad ear by any name will benefit from a little agrimony. Or at least, so we believed in the seventeenth century when we read Culpeper.

The other man of medicine ushered posthumously into our kitchen by this plant is the famous Greek Pedanius Dioscorides, a surgeon in Nero's army who wrote *De Materia Medica,* around the year 77. This is a five-volume encyclopedia or pharmocopeia that was read and widely used for 1,500 years. It contains descriptions and prescriptions for six hundred plants, including our new friend agrimony. Dioscorides tells us we can use it for "bad livers," or to cure us if we are "bitten with serpents."

Sometime between the Englishman and the Greek, we have the French philosophical historian Philippe de Comines. In his account of the 1476 battle of Morat, during the Burgundian Wars, he writes of a cure for gunshot wounds. The weapon was the arquebus, also called a hackbut, which is a muzzle-loaded precursor of muskets and rifles. It was "low velocity" but could still put a hole in you if it got through your armor. Then you would need to apply *eau de arquebussade*, which in those days was made of various things, including agrimony.

Today our modern troubles are unlikely to include arquebus wounds. Still, it is good to know *eau de arquebussade* is available in France, useful for thorns, splinters, or other timeless worries. Besides this, we can use the plant right here in Monterey to make yellow dye or even to tan hides, as its juices are said to be 5 percent tannin. If we should be so lucky as to have no tanning chores, no indolent tumors or imposthumed ears, we can still be glad of agrimony. It is just plain graceful and handsome with its tall spires of yellow blossoms and deep green leaves, toothed and symmetrical.

Agrimony is a rose, of the family Roseaceae and is sweet-scented in all parts of its anatomy, including the root. It is tall and strong, "shooting afresh every Spring." So keep a lookout for it and be glad.

—Bonner J. McAllester

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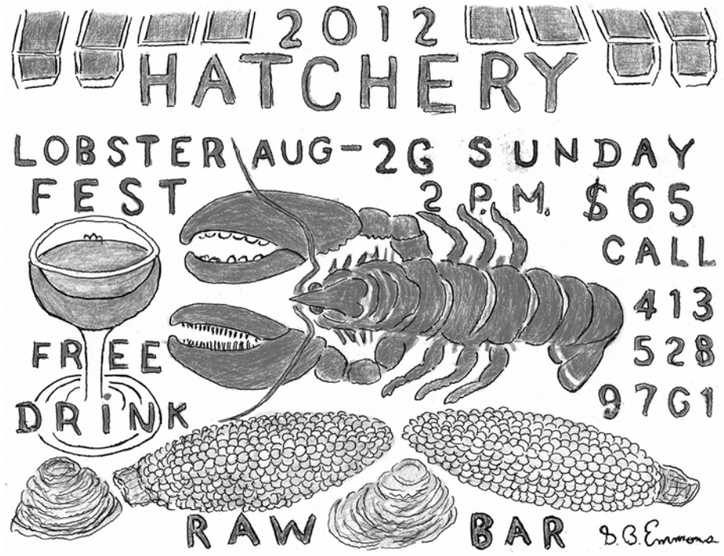
## Maine Comes to Monterey
## Sunday, August 26

The tenth annual Lobsterfest will bring Maine lobsters to a Hatchery mountainside where the land and residents of New Marlboro and Monterey join together for the occasion on Sunday, August 26, starting at 2 pm. The best of lobsters will come from the cold waters of Maine; there will also be a raw clam bar, which can be washed down with a free wine or beer. Then enjoy a gourmet experience of friendship with corn on the cob, oyster stuffing, salad, rolls, watermelon, cookies, and great entertainment.

The 2006 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership with The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation volunteers will once again be celebrated with placement of wreaths at the monument to honor past board members, including the late LeRoy Thorpe, John Doelman, and Phil Gunzinger, pivotal founding volunteers.

Hatchery fish biologists, including Henry Bouchard and Jeff Mosher, will be on hand to answer questions on the first leg of the migratory Atlantic Salmon Research Program already taking place in The Kelt (Hatch) House. No fewer than 480 fingerlings have already been identified and tagged so that as adults they can be linked to their waters of origin under the direction of Marcus Welker of Dartmouth College.




Tickets for the Lobsterfest are $65 each, all of which underwrites educational Hatchery programs and grassroots youth involvement including five fishing derbies in the lower pond. Then there are miles of nature trails with educational signs and geological phenomena. All of this is near where the gravity feed of 300 gallons a minute washes through the ten fish pools to perpetuate our Hatchery mission. Come enjoy the music of the afternoon as it flows down into the river of time that runs by the Hatchery!

—George B. Emmons

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## "Garden Gustation"

*What's Cooking from Monterey Gardens and Farms*

### Busting out with Blueberries

As I write this, we have experienced about two and a half inches of rain. Finally… YAY! It may sound a bit silly, but I was out in the pouring rain watering! I was mostly in the hoop house running back and forth to the rain barrels that were filling fast and furiously. Precious water was overflowing and I hated to see it wasted! I gave the items in the hoop house a really good dousing, as they desperately needed it. It's been a long haul for the plants this summer, it's been so dry, and lots of sun. This has been bad news for the weeds too, however, and I haven't missed them a bit!

In the spring of 2009, we planted twelve blueberry bushes. We bought four bushes each of three different varieties based on a recommendation from Dennis Mareb, owner of Windy Hill Farm. He told us that having different varieties would allow us to have a longer harvesting season, with the varieties ripening at different times. We planted Blue Crop, Patriot, and Earliblue. Since blueberries love an acid soil, we amended the soil with elemental sulfur and peat moss. Dennis recommended adding rotted sawdust or pine needles as a mulch. We reaped a great crop last year and even better this year.

One problem with growing blueberries is that we don't want to share them with the wildlife, particularly the robins. The first year we had blueberries, we noticed robins hanging around the garden but didn't think much of it until we realized that the berries never seemed to be ripening . . . the robins were taking all the ripe ones. We immediately set up wooden stakes and bought some of that obnoxious deer/bird netting to hang over the bushes. This netting is horrific, it gets caught on every little button, buckle, or clasp on your body, not to mention getting caught on the blueberries and the branches. We lived with that for a season, but something different had to be done.

We found ourselves rubbernecking whenever we passed someone's solution to covering blueberry bushes. We finally found a frame system that seemed to look easy enough out behind the Berkshire Bank office just north of town in Great Barrington. From a distance it looked like simple hoops, large enough to easily cover the bushes, made from rebar (reinforcing rod for concrete) and stuck into the ground. A long straight piece of rebar wired across the top held them all upright. Stephen set out to create an improved version for us. He used 3/8" rebar and made a jig to bend the hoops out of 16-foot rods (rebar comes in 20-foot lengths that are inexpensive). The frame is so simple looking, and it will never rot. Better still, it looks elegant when it's not covered.

Last year I happened to be at the Country Curtains sale when everything is 75 percent or more off. I found many large sheer curtains that I thought might work to cover the rebar. I was a bit concerned that they might not let enough light in, but this hasn't seemed to be a problem. Water falls through nicely too. We attach the sheers by simply clothespinning them to the rebar at the top and where they join on the sides. It is so easy to remove the clothespins to get in and out to pick berries, and NOTHING is catching on your clothes. Country Curtains . . . not just for window treatments any more.

Stephen Moore

Blueberries are one of the easiest fruits to grow organically and are such delicious, healthy nuggets, full of antioxidants. A cinch to freeze, just throw them into a plastic bag. We have a number of pick-your-own blueberry patches in Berkshire County, so take the kids, pack a picnic, and bust out for blueberries!

### Very Blueberry Muffins

(Adapted from *Stonyfield Farm Yogurt Cookbook*; underlined items can be local or homemade.)

I used to make these for the Great Barrington Farmers Market many moons ago. They are still a favorite in our house; it's easy to substitute other berries too.

**Batter**:
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2 cups unbleached flour
1 cup plain yogurt
1 tsp. baking soda
1 egg
½ cup canola or vegetable oil
½ cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup blueberries, (local fresh or frozen)

**Topping** (makes enough for two batches and keeps well in refrigerator):
½ cup brown sugar
⅓ cup flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ cup cold butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together baking powder, salt, and flour. In a separate bowl, combine the yogurt with the baking soda: set the mixture aside (it will bubble up). In bowl of electric mixer, combine oil, sugar, egg, and vanilla and beat until well combined. Add the flour mixture and the yogurt mixture alternately to the egg mixture, beating after each addition until batter is smooth. Gently fold in the blueberries. Pour into greased muffin pan.

For the topping, cut together the butter with the remaining ingredients and sprinkle 1 tablespoon of topping on each muffin. Bake for 25 minutes. *Yields one dozen muffins.*

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com


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## From the Meetinghouse . . .
## Stranger in a Strange Land

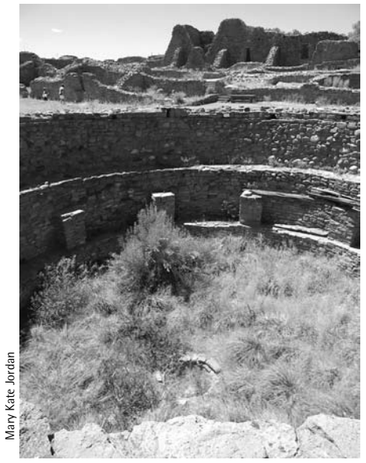
*We remember.*
*We lay down and wept when we remembered.*
*Our captors require of us a song. But: How?*
*Can we? Sing our holy song in a strange land?*

You may have read another version of that text at the close of last month's column. It describes a historic dilemma, one that's mythic and archetypal as well.

It can be personal, too. Varieties of this text and their haunting melodies have been among my favorite "golden oldie" hymns over the years. Only within the last month or so have I begun to understand how personally useful it can be, no matter what one's emotional or spiritual orientation.

I was in the midst of a deeply felt conflict with a family member I see only twice a year. For me, the most difficult part of restructuring our relationship was coming to terms with how far short my behavior in the dynamic fell, compared to what it might have been. As I wrestled with that, I was introduced to this song as the words appeared in this column last month. They crept, no, they leapt, into my mind and heart. Spending time with them was an important part of preparing me to break through into a new way of relating with the other person after we had hurt each other.

Being a wordsmith, spending time with the lyrics included playing with the words, and with the punctuation. That's where the version a few paragraphs up came from: Can I? Sing my truth in peace? Even when I find myself deep in the strange land of another's alien-to-me world view?



Mary Kate Jordan

*Desert country. Not Monterey at all. Photo from New Mexico desert, 2012.*

I hadn't, but now, perhaps I can more readily identify emotional conflict as a strange land where I need to *Remember. Lie down and weep, perhaps, but remember: captivity requires song.*

Maybe it will be useful to you, too. There's no better time or place to sing one's most holy, metaphorical or actual, song than when feeling like a stranger in a strange land.

— Mary Kate Jordan

ॐ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Opinion

## A Progressive from Massachusetts District One

Election season is upon us, and being the politically inclined person that I am, my inbox is inundated with emails as each FEC reporting deadline nears. In addition to a few specific candidates' campaigns, I've also subscribed to the Obama campaign, the Democratic Senate Committee, and the Democrat Congressional Committee. This means that I am privileged enough to get emails from Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, James Carville, Sarah Jessica Parker, and even Barack Obama himself. It also means I have donor fatigue and I care less with each email I get; there will always be "a most important deadline." The majority of my family and friends agree that the sheer amount of money in politics is disturbing, bordering on nauseating. Political scientists continue to watch the money-politics relationship closely as an area of the discipline; they're working to ensure the research proves just where the influence rests when it comes to determining the outcome of elections and Congressional voting preferences. There is a whole literature on that subject, some of which continues to run contrary to popular opinion.

Bill Shein's 2012 run for Congress in the newly redrawn Massachusetts 1st District serves as a refreshing antidote to the dollar-driven election dialogue. I've been intrigued by his nontraditional campaign. I rarely get emails from Bill and when I do get occasional updates, they are rich with content and statements, and, yes, they may contain a financial ask. Instead of spamming inboxes, his campaign is built on a fundamental understanding of grassroots democracy; candidates should turn out the vote by building and maintaining strong local support.

Bill is running because he believes Washington is broken, a line that we've heard many times. But he's putting his money where his mouth is; there is a total maximum contribution of $99.00 per donor for the primary season. Yes, you read that right. I started following Bill on Twitter after I found out he was running, and I donated right away. However, I recently double-checked to make sure I couldn't donate more, both as a show of support and because I knew it would actually be a useful amount. No, not this cycle, he responded; instead, he told me, I had to get the word out to as many other people as possible, to support him and make the small donations. Because he's running a grassroots campaign, I have a better idea of how the money will be used. It's a concept I understand and support: gas money, flyers, limited printing of road signs, buying pizza for hard-working volunteers. I like knowing how my money actually helps; with big campaigns, all you get are emails asking you for money to fundraise more than the other guys. That's not compelling. I'd also be remiss if I didn't specifically mention that Bill is not taking any corporation or super-PAC money.

This column was never meant to be a political one, but it is about my life in DC and I'm fairly tuned into politics. It's a happy occasion in my mind when my two worlds collide in the political arena. The Berkshire community remains near and dear to my heart, and I identify very strongly with the progressive political bent. I learned about Bill's campaign a few months ago, and to date he's raised just over $20,000 in small donations. It's a great figure that doesn't even come close to the amount raised by Representative Neal (D, currently representing 2nd District, now running for 1st District seat). We don't need more stories about obscene amounts of money being raised; candidates should be ashamed at the totals they raise. They're not though because they believe that to win they must participate in the ridiculous game. Still, they're happy to bemoan how much time they spend raising money as opposed to governing. Members of Congress feel they need to start fundraising the day they take office for the next election.

Whatever happened to the idea that Representatives are just like us? It's difficult to relate to individuals who bankroll their campaigns with personal wealth, but it's also hard to trust those who raise vast sums of money, especially from large donors and corporations. Who will these candidates favor when it comes to legislation, and will voters know enough to vote someone who is voting against constituent interests out of office? Bill Shein's campaign has larger implications for the national dialogue; from inside the Beltway, I look forward to that possibility.

First, in the best possible scenario, imagine a candidate elected to a national-level office with small dollar donations, who was sent there by a grassroots campaign and, ultimately, the people's vote. Imagine. Secondly, Bill is already working to push the debate forward. As a progressive citizen, I appreciate any instances where his policy positions—and his moral stances—demand an acknowledgment or response from his opponents. He is raising the quality of debate and dialogue, something we are sorely lacking in Washington. I am not voting in Massachusetts this election cycle; I now live and work in the DC metro area, and I will be contributing to our democratic process in the great swing state of Virginia. But, there are many important elections happening in Massachusetts; the state is a national leader when it comes to the idea of progress and quality of life for all. If our politicians will not protect our interests as citizens, who will? This of course holds for Massachusetts, but also nationally.

I know that there are many great and worthwhile debates in this country today, and as a Washingtonian I deeply appreciate being privy to the heatedness with which the right and left argue their points. Collectively though, we are isolated from the rest of the country, no matter how much we care. Keep in mind that this is just my personal perspective, but I appreciate candidates such as Bill who get into the game because they care about the quality of the dialogue and the outcome and believe that both can be better. All the candidates, including Bill, will be partaking in a series of debates happening in August while Congress is out of session—it's a good time to tune in and hear what everyone has to say. I can only imagine (and hope) that the discussion will be more substantive than the national presidential debates this fall.

I do not have a crystal ball when it comes to November's election; I don't know how the votes will divide out with multiple contenders. That is the beauty of democracy. We should each, as we are entitled to do, vote as we see fit. We can all demand a higher quality of discussion and debate in this country over the issues that affect our lives, and we can make statements about our values through the individuals that represent our interests in Washington. I believe that many citizens in Western Massachusetts will feel a deep sense of pride in the statement they've made through their selection if Bill makes his way to the nation's capital next year. Hopefully the entire progressive movement will also quickly come to see Bill as a leader and ally. The Democratic primary is just around the corner on September 6, and I encourage you to check out Bill's campaign and to vote. Note that the last day to register to vote in the primary is Friday, August 17.

—Tarsi Dunlop

*Phoebe nestlings, photographed by Maureen Banner earlier this summer.*


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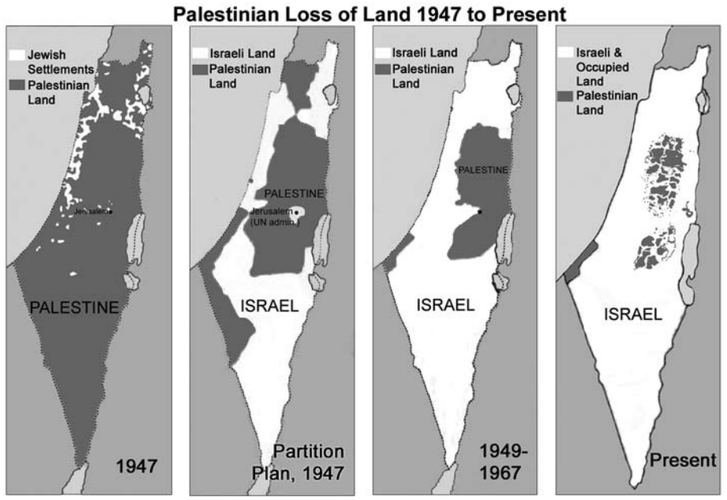
# Realities in Palestine: An Eyewitness Report

Three Monterey residents returned recently from an eye-opening journey to Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories. We went because of the troubling news coming from Gaza about collective punishment, because of images of a 300-mile wall of separation between Israelis and Palestinians, and perhaps most of all because of our desire to understand the nature of this occupation of Palestinian lands, the longest occupation in recent history, in place since the 1967 Israel-Palestine war.

We travelled with the Interfaith Peace Builders (IFPB, www.ifpb.org) and thirty US delegates, of various ages, religions, and occupations. We travelled mainly along the "Green Line," which is not green at all but dusty and rather desolate. This line was the boundary between Israel and the West Bank created by the 1967 war. While this boundary remains very real to the Palestinians, it under-represents the division of land between Israelis and Palestinians. The sequence of maps in the figure shows that since 1967 continuous land confiscation east of the Green Line and west of the Jordan has markedly reduced the land remaining in Palestinian control. Whether taken by the military or by settlers, the remaining small and isolated parcels of land barely constitute a viable second state.




We visited UN offices and an NGO (nongovernmental organization) with expertise on the refugee health, housing, and economic status. Six and one-half million Palestinians now live abroad, displaced by war or by systematic removal, as villages are demolished, land confiscated, families forced out of their ancient homes. One and a half million Palestinians remain in the occupied territories. We learned about and saw crowded, impoverished refugee camps, with poor sanitation, sparse water, and weak infrastructures, more than fifty years after the war.

We saw the new Israeli settlements strategically placed on hilltops, with trees, fountains, and swimming pools, towering above and surrounding the low lands where Palestinians have their farms, olive trees, and fields. And we saw the Wall, at least twenty feet high, often passing close to Palestinian homes, separating Palestinian farmers from their lands. The farmers would have to walk many miles each day simply to get to their fields. As a result the lands often lay fallow. According to Israeli policy, when a field is not planted for three years, it can be confiscated, so loss of Palestinian income, land, and traditional livelihood is occurring continuously.

We passed through the gates and channels that are called checkpoints. Palestinians in the West Bank must pass through these to enter what is now Israel proper. The system of chutes and gates is weirdly reminiscent of cattle yards. Each day adults and children must show identity cards, be questioned and searched by the military. Some people do this on a daily basis, some only for emergencies. For all it is a degrading and sometimes dangerous restriction of mobility

Much of life within the refuge camps and or in the traditional villages is shaped by Israel's permitting policies: Permits: NOT! In all of our travels **we never met one** Palestinian living near or beyond the Green Line **who has ever since occupation been granted a permit**. No matter what the request or issue was, no permit has been granted to make physical improvements in living conditions. No cisterns for water collection. No wells can be dug. No buildings can be renovated. No updates in electricity or plumbing. No solar. No wind collectors. No sewer improvements. Essentially almost nothing can be improved or changed. The message seems clear. There is no future for Palestinians, under Israeli control.

Every Palestinian family is affected by the occupation. In the name of Security, all Palestinians are suspect. They are subject to imprisonment as "administrative detention" for up to six months without charges. Nearly every Palestinian family has had members arrested. Every adult male that we spoke seriously with, the professors, the community elders, the water experts, the landowners, all had spent some time in prison. Every one of them had experienced torture. We cannot let this continue . . . Not in our name.

Lest you think the entire trip was negative, it is important to talk about the Palestinian families we met and their hope. They consistently speak of nonviolent solutions. They know that "they shall overcome." They want the occupation to end, the land confiscation to end, and the return of their confiscated lands. They want to manage their own water and electricity and roads and schools. They are spurred on by support from the many Israeli citizens who are at their sides, defending Palestinian equality and human rights, creating solar and wind power solutions, standing against expansions of the Wall.

Palestinians repeatedly asked us to help Americans to question the use of US tax dollars, $3 billion annually, for Israel's military. They ask that we tie US investments in Israel/Palestine to progress in human rights and justice for Palestinians, to a fair share of land, water, education, and opportunity.

We know that to some, any criticism of Israel is equated with anti-Semitism. But we saw with our own eyes the unacceptable results of more than fifty year of occupation. We want to share our concerns with those who can envision other ways for Israel to protect itself. We would like to share in more detail what we saw and learned in a community presentation in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about our experience, please contact us, drpatsalomon@gmail.com.

—Carol Husten, Julio Rodriguez, Pat Salomon

# New Marlborough's Elihu Burritt Day Aug. 18

On August 18, community residents and others are invited to Elihu Burrit Day, a daylong celebration in and around the New Marlborough Village.

Friends, neighbors, and town visitors gather at 10 am at the Village Green for Roger the Jester, a walk-run road race, food, crafts, antiques appraisal, white elephant, and other family-friendly activities. All are welcome.

The New Marlborough Fire Company Pig Roast/Block Dance gets under way at the Southfield Fire House, from 5–9 pm.

Visit www.newmarlborough.org/Elihu for a detailed schedule and pig-roast ticket price information, or call 413-229-2369.

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### The General Store and the Town

To the Editor,

The Monterey Select Board would like to take this opportunity to clear up any confusion and misinformation that is circulating regarding the delay in the opening of the Monterey General Store and to assure everyone that we all want to see the General Store open as soon as possible and as soon as all of our Inspectors have deemed it safe for the public. We would also like to make it very clear the Town of Monterey, through its Inspectors, is not holding up the opening up of the General Store. Every effort has been made to communicate with Mr. Cole what the requirements are for opening up the store.

Over three months ago, the Monterey Health Agent, Monterey Fire Inspector, and the Inter-Departmental Secretary all met with the new owner of the store to answer any questions he might have regarding any necessary requirements or permits to open the store. Mr. Cole was not sure exactly what his plans were with regards to renovations and such, but asked questions. At this time he was informed of the need for an ansul system and exhaust fan, which is required with the particular stove he had, and of the various permits necessary for the Board of Health. The owner was told that in order to be more specific on what would be required, the Inspectors would all need plans and narratives to review. He was advised and given the paperwork necessary if he decided to apply for a package store license as well. The Building Inspector also had several separate conversations with the new owner on what he would require.

On June 25, 2012 the Monterey Board of Health received the permit applications from Mr. Cole that fall under their jurisdiction. Mr. Cole was made aware at this time that a copy of his Serv Safe certification was still necessary as was confirmation from the Building Inspector that a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued before any Board of Health permits would be issued. On Tuesday, July 24, the Monterey Health Agent made an inspection of the Store and determined that prior to the Board issuing any permits the following would need to be submitted: proof of a contract for regular monitoring and maintenance of the alternative technology septic system, proof that the fix had been made to the non-functioning aerator on the septic system (which was noted in a Title V inspection report performed in October of 2011), replacement of floor tiles (from a fire) in the bakery and food prep area, connection of the plumbing in the ice cream area, repair of a wall in the bakery area and completion of the required Allergy training. As of today the Board has only received a copy of the contract for the wastewater system.

On July 25, the Monterey Building Official received an application and engineer's report as required by the Massachusetts Building Code in order for a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued. That same day the Building Official and the Fire Inspector made a site visit to the store. The owner and his engineer were sent a list of the deficiencies to be corrected in order for a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued. As of today (July 30) the Town has not received a response regarding the list. It is still our hope that Mr. Cole will be able to quickly satisfy the building and health code regulations so that all of us in town can enjoy and have pride in our General Store.

—Monterey Select Board
Scott Jenssen, Chair, Muriel Lazzarini,
Wayne Burkhart

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### Thanks to McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Committee

To the Editor:

I want to express my sincere gratitude to The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Committee and the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, on behalf of myself and my family for the very generous scholarship for my 2012–2013 school year. I cannot express how important this award is to me and I will try my best during my sophomore year at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

With thanks,

—Lauren E. Andrus


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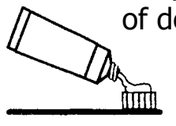
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### Halt Smart Meters

To the Editor:

Halt MA Smart Meters is a statewide organization and citizens alliance against wireless and Smart Meters. We are working for you and need your help.

The Smart Grid is currently being installed nationwide by electric companies who want their equipment to have the capacity to communicate wirelessly and remotely between their stations and your homes, saving distribution costs for the companies but adding electromagnetic radiation to your daily home life. The program includes the widespread replacement of all analog meters with wireless digital meters. These meters are designed to track and record usage trends and can even reveal when customers are home or away, and what appliances they have purchased, as well as many other personal homeowner habits. These meters are an invasion of personal privacy, as well as a risk to health and safety, as they release a constant stream of pulsing radio frequency radiation into homes and our environments. Some of these meters are just a few inches from children's cribs, bedrooms, and family rooms, all the while emitting microwave pulsing radiation, deemed carcinogenic by the World Health Organization.

The website at www.haltMAsmartmeters.org provides a wealth of information to consumers about the health and safety concerns of wireless/smart meters and the Smart Grid network. The site provides research links of studies and consumer rights under the US Energy Policy Act of 2005, which allows opt-outs from the Smart Grid program.

The website also includes FAQs, videos, and petitions demanding consumer rights, as well as contact information so individuals may speak directly with one of the founding members.

The group welcomes donations to help cover operating costs.

Smart meters and wireless technology in general, are being rejected by citizens across the country in many states. Some state supreme courts have ruled that it is unconstitutional to deny customers their rights to refuse to have smart meters installed on their homes.

Visit www.haltMAsmartmeters.org to join the growing resistance against corporate invasion and speak up for for your right to protect your privacy, health and safety.

—Sandra Chianfoni

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## Watch for Important Mailing on Broadband Service!

Soon everyone will be receiving a mailing about WiredWest's proposed broadband network in Monterey. We voted to join WiredWest at Town Meeting last year. It's a municipal telecommunications cooperative of forty towns unserved and underserved by broadband. WiredWest towns are working together on a fiber-optic network in the region to provide state-of-the-art and affordable Internet, phone, video, and other services to homes and businesses.

But first we have to demonstrate sufficient interest in the network in Monterey to show financial sustainability. Pricing for services will be competitive with what people pay for these services here and elsewhere; and the quality of Internet service will unrivalled by any other options available in the region. The WiredWest network is also operated by member communities, to ensure the best interests of participating towns.

Please watch for the mailing, which will be delivered in August. Once you receive it, please complete and mail back the Support Card to WiredWest by September 15, 2012. If you do not receive the mailing, you will also find Support Cards at the Town Hall and Library, or contact your WiredWest town delegate, Monica Webb at monica@wiredwest.net.


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## Music and More Festival 2012 Opens Aug. 4

For twenty-one years, the Music & More Festival has been drawing visitors to New Marlborough for an eclectic late summer–early fall season of chamber music, jazz, literary events, and fascinating conversation at the historic Meeting House on the New Marlborough Village Green. This year, on most Saturdays from August 4–October 6, there's more in store.

Events take place at 4:30 pm, with some pre-concert talks, and each is followed by a reception in the Meeting House Gallery. Music events tickets are $25 or $20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association. Tickets can be reserved at www.newmarlborough.org, by phone at 413-229-2785, or purchased at the door.

The 2012 Music & More season opens with a free Berkshire writers gathering followed by six Saturdays of music ranging from chamber music to jazz from late August through September, and concluding with an Oct. 6th literary event featuring renowned authors discussing their work. The Meeting House in New Marlborough, at the town's idyllic Village Green, is the setting for each event. A scenic fifteen-minute drive from downtown Great Barrington leads to the historic site.

On August 4 at 4:30, join contestants and judges for the annual, free-admission Berkshire Murder Mystery Writers Contest, built around the 2012 theme, "Death by Organic Food and Killer Cliché." Six finalists read aloud from their short stories and the judges will select the final three, with prizes for the winners. As with all events, a reception follows in the Meeting House Gallery.

After a brief hiatus, Music & More's musical season comes to life August 25 at 4:30, as music and dance lovers gather for "A Celebration of Music, Dance and the Spoken Word," a collaborative performance of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* (A Soldier's Tale) with dancers from the Berkshire Pulse Center for the Creative Arts, choreographed by Tom Masters and narrated by Robert Olsen. The program includes music of Debussy, Fritz Kreisler, and Paul Schoenfeld's brilliant Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano, performed by clarinetist Paul Green, violinist Joanna Maurer, and pianist Doris Stevenson.

For the 2012 schedule and ticket information visit www.newmarlborough.org.

## Contributors

Thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual appeal. We could not keep going without your support.

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## Calendar

**Every Monday except holidays**: Select Board, Town Hall, 9 am.
**Every Tuesday**: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.
**Every Sunday**: Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park.
**Saturday, August 4**:
Monterey Movie Night: *The Wizard of Oz*, 8 pm Greene Park. Sponsored by Parks Commission. Free.
Second Homeowners Meeting with Select Board, 10 am, Town Hall.
Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 am, Town Beach.
"Stories of the Night Sky," children's program by Kevin Kopchynski of Massachusetts Audubon, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.
Presentation and discussion on work of Moxie, the Reading Dog, with Dr. Barbara Wolf-Dorlester, 7 pm, Monterey Library.
Murder Mystery Writers Read-Aloud, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery.
**Thursday, August 9**: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.
**Saturday, August 11**:
Bidwell House Museum Summer Garden Party Fundraiser, 4–7 pm, Deacon Hale House, Monterey. $50. See p. 13.
Story and craft for children presented by Denise Andrus, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.
**Friday, August 17:** Last day to register to vote in Sept. 6 state primary.
**Saturday, August 18**:
MontereyFest, activities all day at various Monterey venues. See p. 3.
Bidwell House Museum History Talk on intertwined lives of a farmer/tradesman and his slave in pre-Revolution New England, 10 am, Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. $15/$10 for members. See p. 11.
Singing and dancing with Tom Seiling, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.
Elihi Burritt Day, daylong celebration in New Marlborough. See p. 23.
**Saturday, August 25**:
"A Celebration of Music, Dance and the Spoken Word," 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House. $25; see p. 26.


### *Monterey News*

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.


## The Observer
**June 26 – July 25**

| | |
|---|---|
| High temp. (6/29, 7/17) | 88º |
| Low temp. (7/10) | 50° |
| Avg. high temp. | 80° |
| Avg. low temp. | 57° |
| Avg. temp. | 68.5° |
| Total rainfall | 1.54 in. |

Rainfall occurred on 14 days.

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Jazz Evening with Charles Neville at Knox Trail Inn, Otis, 8 pm.
**Sunday, August 26**: Annual Fish Hatchery Lobsterfest Fundraiser, 2 pm, Berkshire Fish Hatchery, Hatchery Road, New Marlborough. $65. See p. 17.
**Monday, August 27**: Adult book group will discuss *The Wild Trees* by Richard Preston, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.
**Friday, August 31**: Opening reception for photography exhibit *Afghanistan to France: 6000 Miles of Portraits*, 6 pm, Knox Gallery in Monterey Library. Free, see p. 12.
**Saturday, September 1**: "Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation," Bidwell House History Talk by Eric Rutkow 10 am, Bidwell House Museum. $15/$10 for members.
**Monday, September 3**: Labor Day.


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*Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Pat Arnow, 11; Rachel Arnow, 15, 23; George Emmons, 17; Tristian Goik, 9; Bonner McAllester, 16.*

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